

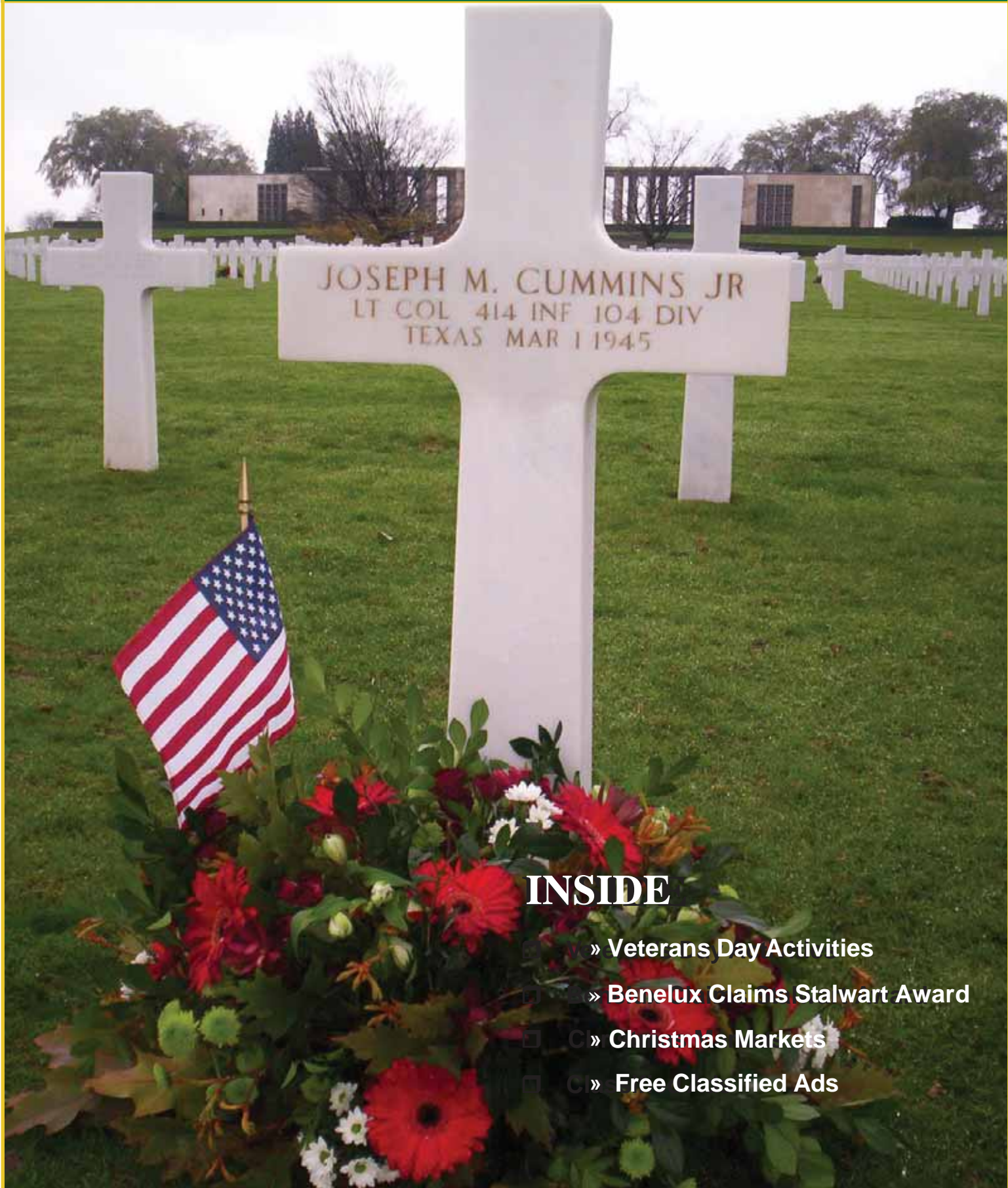
Benelux **EDGE**



Volume 1, Issue 1

'Sharpen the Sword'

December 2006



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Nowowiejski Notes



Here is a sampling of what people are saying on the USAG Benelux Communities Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system:

Chièvres Garrison

Central Processing Facility

"The in and out processing section is very helpful."

"The in/out processing section of the CPF is very helpful to the new incoming Soldiers and civilian workers. They are the first people new incoming Soldiers/civilians come in contact with. I think they have excellent teamwork skills."

"Today was a SHAPE holiday but the Central Processing facility was open and everyone was very helpful."

"I did not have an appointment and the agent from the passport section helped me any ways. I am very satisfied with the customer service I got."

USAG Schinnen

Army Community Service

"Tour was excellent and would recommend."

Very friendly and helpful. Took care of family need on trip. Information was helpful. Answered all questions with confidence."

"Great tour. Liked the teaching of the train system."

"Very friendly & helpful. Took care of family needs on trip. Information was helpful. Answered all questions with confidence."

Did you know? The USAG Benelux Communities received over 3,500 ICE comments in FY06.

We need your comments, kudos, questions and concerns! To submit go to <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil> and click the ICE link to tell us what you think.

Welcome to the first edition of the **Benelux Edge**, a combination in one high quality monthly magazine of the **Benelux Link** and the **Meteor-Heraut**. So our information strategy for the communities across the Benelux has changed. Now you have a monthly magazine instead of a newspaper every other week and a magazine every other month. We hope to still bring you pertinent advance information and tell the story of the many great quality of life events which take place at Brussels, Chièvres, and Schinnen in support of Americans working at NATO Headquarters, SHAPE, Joint Forces Command Headquarters - Brunssum, all installations run by NATO.

We made the change for economy and efficiency. If you need short term information, please check www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil. We will also keep our extended partners across Belgium, the Netherlands, northern Germany, Luxembourg, northern France, portions of the United Kingdom and Poland informed with special focus on those families who wait for deployed service members from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and AFNORTH Battalion.

When this edition expires, the Combined Federal Campaign will be over. You should have had opportunity to make a decision by this time about which organization is worthy of your personal support. The main thing to consider is the variety of great causes and organizations represented by the CFC, that this is the only authorized solicitation of donations in the federal workplace and it happens once a year. The loss will be if you don't give careful consideration to your decision to donate, or don't understand the options available to you. It's not about the amount, it's about the cause. Enormous good comes from the CFC. There is an organization represented that you personally be-

lieve in, believe me. If you want information, call CIV: 068-27-5109. The campaign ends at the end of the year. It's a busy time of year. Don't let your chance pass you by.



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
USAG Benelux Commander

Holiday season. Season of togetherness, and of loneliness. We encourage you to celebrate the deeper meaning of your holiday. Reflect and honor those dear to you. Remember there are also people around you who will be lonely and depressed. Don't miss a signal of someone crying for attention.

Do something to help those who cry

out for it. We have many community resources to help those in need. Army Emergency Relief for those in need of emergency funds, your local chaplain with a listening ear, Army Community Service with many programs to help you, especially American Family Team Building with its individual educational power. For those with substance abuse challenges, the Army Substance Abuse Program is available. When you need help or just want to expand your life, there is a program for you.

Finally, your holiday safety reminder. Please don't stop reading. The best thing you can remember is that it's easy in the Benelux to get a DWI. It takes just one local beer with its high alcohol content. The roads are dangerous, narrow, dark, and wet this time of year. Your POV risk assessment is the best protection. To find out about ASMIS2 or Composite Risk Management, please visit cra.army.mil before your holiday travel. You will be glad, and you will be safe. Happy Holidays!

The radio station formerly known as AFN SHAPE

By Pam Portland

AFN Benelux

SHAPE — Dec. 1, the radio station formerly known as AFN SHAPE officially became the American Forces Network Benelux. The impetus behind the name change came from U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Commander Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski. The rationale is that the name of the station should more accurately reflect the audience which is scattered across the Benelux.

The station began broadcasting in 1967 with one transmitter and one engineer located at Chièvres Air Base. In 1974, the transmitter was moved to SHAPE, where AFN SHAPE opened its doors with an entire staff and local live programming. Laetitia Agazzi is the only remaining staff member from that first crew. She was

hired as a secretary and is now the station office manager. She says the name change is long overdue, "It seems more natural that everyone now will be represented. After all, we are not just neighbors, we are all one big family."

AFN Station Commander, Sgt. 1st Class Steve Morgan, is also excited about the name change: "Changing the name to AFN Benelux just makes sense. It represents who we are truly serving and it gives us a wider emotional reach to communities we have been broadcasting to and covering for more than 30 years."

From the beginning, the station's positioning statement has always been, "The Voice of the Benelux." Now, it truly is. Also, a new satellite channel (21) on AFN decoders now lets viewers watch local TV news Benelux-wide.

COVER PHOTO:
By David Atkinson

Flowers and an American flag were placed at Lt. Col. Joseph M. Cummins Jr.'s grave during Veterans Day activities. Cummins is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery.

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, force protection and grammar.



USAG Benelux is a direct reporting garrison to the Installation Management Command-Europe

Say WHAT?

What does the new Army advertising campaign "Army Strong" mean to you?

"To me, Army Strong means truly working as a team, a united front against enemies of the world, terrorist or otherwise."

Spc. Paul V. Hurtt
Chièvres Garrison MP



"Army Strong will not motivate me to join the Army. The Army's web site, seeing pilots and listening to people talk about their different jobs, motivated me to enlist in the Army."

Staff Sgt. Dekishon Rogers
USAG Benelux

"I don't think the Army Strong advertising campaign is worth the taxpayer's money. The Army should use its in-house advertising people and let the money go to the war effort."

Staff Sgt. Leroy Fitzpatrick
USAG Benelux



Veterans Day

Allies honor

Soldiers

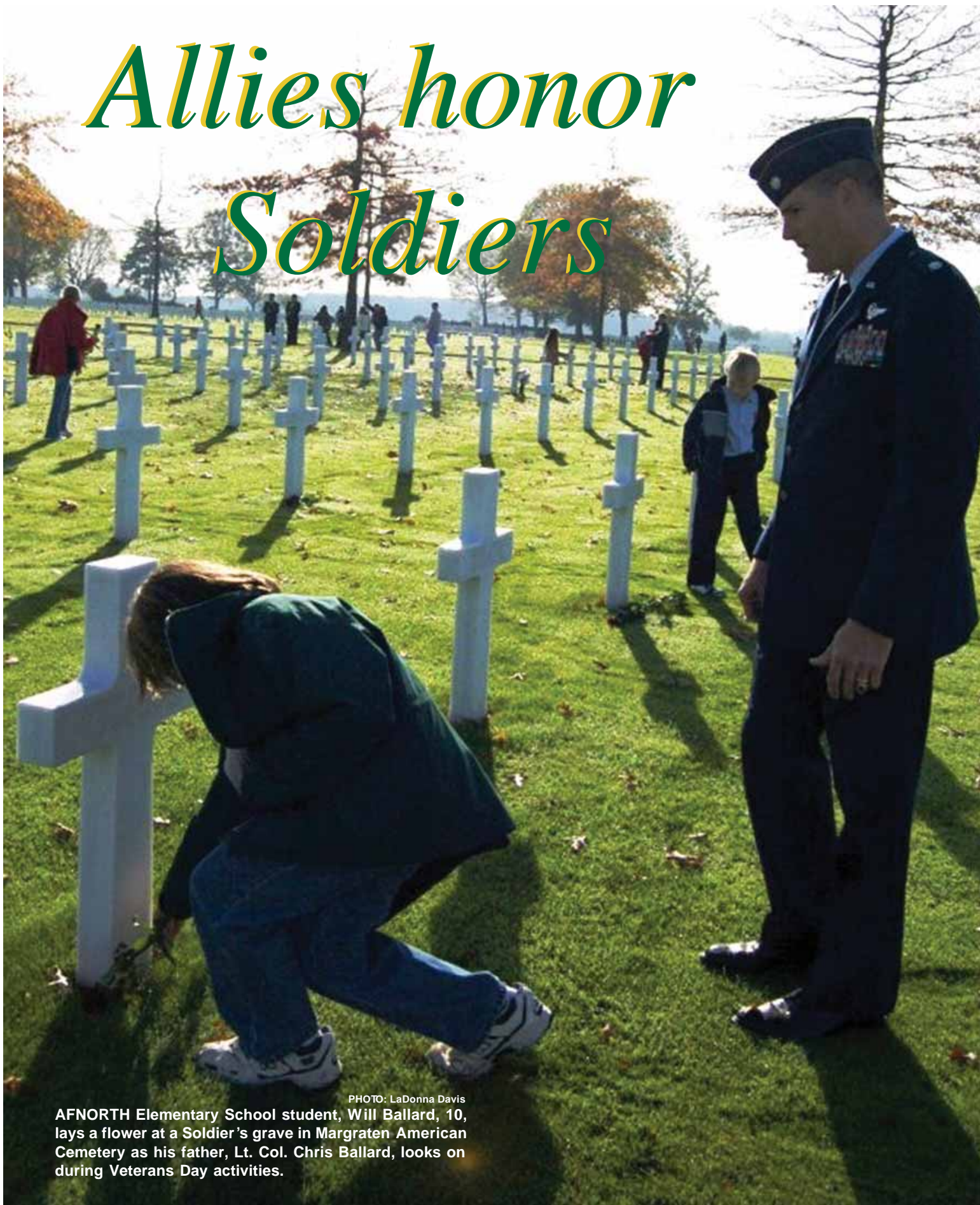


PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

AFNORTH Elementary School student, Will Ballard, 10, lays a flower at a Soldier's grave in Margraten American Cemetery as his father, Lt. Col. Chris Ballard, looks on during Veterans Day activities.

Remembrance

By J.D. Hardesty

Benelux EDGE Editor

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux joined our host nation Allies in honoring those who gave their all for freedom.

Commanders and color guards from Benelux, Brussels, Chièvres and Schinnen garrisons participated in ceremonies in local towns and villages as well as Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem and the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

All across Europe, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month people pause to remember those who sacrificed all.

"I was weaned on stories about the First World War," Ambassador Evan G. Galbraith, Secretary of Defense Representative, Europe and Defense Advisor, U.S. Mission to NATO at a Veterans Day ceremony in Flanders Field, the final resting place of 368 WWI service members who died during the Great War. "My father, an Army doctor, and my mother, one of the first Army nurses, met while they were on Active Duty during the war. They were married on Nov. 9, 1918 in England."

Originally referred to as Armistice Day, the national holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all U.S. veterans - those who paid the ultimate price for freedom and those who returned home.

Nearly three years ago, the last known combat-wounded U.S. veteran of WWI, Alfred Pugh, died in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was 108, just 10 days short of his 109th birthday.

Pugh joined the Army in 1917 and fought in France during World War I with the 77th Infantry Division. In 1918, he was wounded during the Meuse-Argonne offensive, one of the war's bloodiest battles.

According to Veterans Affairs estimates, there are a couple dozen remaining American World War I veterans.

Pugh was one of 10 veterans profiled in the book, "The Price of their Blood," co-authored by Jesse Brown, former U.S. secretary of Veterans Affairs.

According to previously released VA information on America's WWI veterans, Pugh spoke French and was used overseas as an interpreter until the Battle in the Argonne forest, when he inhaled mustard gas.

"It was like a fog," Pugh said in an interview in 2002. "... We didn't get any gas masks until the day after it happened."

In 1999, he was named chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

Chièvres Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John G. Romero explained that "Every year we get an opportunity to honor American and Allied Soldiers who made great sacri-



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

A color guard from USAG Brussels stands in front of the Flanders Field American Cemetery Chapel in Waregem during the wreathlaying ceremony Nov. 11 as part of Veterans Day activities across the Benelux.



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

USAG Schinnen representatives and the Netherlands American Cemetery leadership pay tribute to the fallen veterans during the Margraten Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11.

Remembrance

fices for freedom.”

Our European Allies remember.

“The memory of our dead and the pain they suffered may not disappear,” said Chièvres Mayor Dr. Michel Miroir, at a memorial honoring those died in World Wars I and II. “Our solidarity and good-citizenship are to lead our youth to a good future and we have confidence in our youth and in our future!”

More than just Allied troops lost their lives during the Great War.

Miroir said the ceremonies “Commemorate the prisoners of war, the political prisoners, resistant fighters and all who fought and gave their youth, their health and their lives to give us the right to democracy.”

Youth across the Benelux take part in ceremonies to say thank you.

Will Ballard, 10, explained he laid a flower on a Soldiers grave in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten “To say thank you. The veterans have risked their lives to help make freedom and my dad is in the military so it makes it more special. It is a day to celebrate all the Soldiers that have died in war.”

A Brussels American School senior, John Kilroy, recited the famous poem by Canadian Capt. John Macrae, “In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow...” The 17-year-old said, “I’m really happy to have been part of the ceremonies our Garrison held today at both the American cemetery and at the Belgian monument in Waregem. Our two nations were, and are, close.”

According to USAG Schinnen Commander Lt. Col. Eric Tilley during his remarks at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, “We observe Veterans Day on an anniversary — not of a great battle or of the beginning of a war, but of a day when war ended and nations were again at peace.

“On Veterans Day, we honor the countless Americans who have answered the call to duty for more than 230 years. It is a day to honor the men and women of our armed forces who put boots on the ground in defense of our nation’s ideals and way of life,” he said. “Make it a day to remember the family members and loved ones of those serving in harm’s way. And make it a day to honor the contributions of our civilian workforce who provide so much support and assistance to service members and their families. This Veterans Day, I urge you to remember the special meaning that this holiday holds for members of our military communities.”

NOTE: Brussels, Chièvres and Schinnen Public Affairs offices contributed to this report



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

(Left to right) USAG Brussels employee Danny Vander Luppen, Ambassador Evan G. Galbraith, Secretary of Defense Representative, Europe and Defense Advisor, U.S. Mission to NATO, USAG Brussels Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Pat Kilroy and fellow Brussels host nation employee Anne Wydouw immediately after laying a wreath at the Flanders Field U.S. cemetery at Waregem, Belgium.



PHOTO: Marie-Lise Baneton

USAG Benelux color guard Soldiers participated in Veterans Day activities Nov. 11 in Brugelette, Belgium.



Photo: LaDonna Davis

USAG Schinnen leadership pay tribute to the fallen Soldiers during a Veterans Day ceremony, Nov. 11 held at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.



PHOTOS: Cis Spook

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux color guard members Staff Sgt. James Terrell (right to left) Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Taylor, Sgt. 1st Class Mohammad Tabassum and Sgt. Jacqueline Racy join Chièvres Mayor Dr. Michel Miroir and members of the town during Veterans Day ceremonies to "Commemorate the prisoners of war, the political prisoners, resistant fighters and all who fought and gave their youth, their health and their lives to give us the right to democracy," said Miroir.

Inset photo: Chièvres Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John G. Romero joins Chièvres Mayor Dr. Michel Miroir, and Chièvres Saint Joseph's school children as they lay a wreath at the Veterans Day commemoration in Chièvres.

STALWART AWARD



Christian Boisdenghien
Chief, Supply and Services Division
U.S. Army Garrison Benelux



Robert Bonaparte
Administrative Program Specialist
U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen



Hans Verwasch
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen

Benelux employees lead IMCOM-E

By **J.D. Hardesty**
Benelux EDGE Editor

There are those people who fight, change, those who embrace it, and then there are those who, in their daily performance, embody the ideals, spirit and values while conducting business.

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux has three employees nominated by the Installation Management Command's European Region as model workers who excel when carrying out the mission operations, goals and objectives of the organization.

Christian Boisdenghien, chief, Supply and Services Division of the Directorate of Logistics at USAG Benelux; Robert Bonaparte, administrative program specialist and Hans Verwasch, an environmental engineer, both from USAG Schinnen, were the only three nominated in IMCOM's European Region.

Clancy Hammond, director of DOL for the USAG Benelux, nominated Boisdenghien for "his active role in implementing common levels of support of the Standard Garrison Organization."

Hammond cited Boisdenghien's work on Performance Improvement Reviews that led improved quality and cost savings for the entire USAG Benelux organization while meeting the IMCOM Europe's goals for transformation.

Boisdenghien received the Stalwart Award

for IMCOM Europe in November at the Garrison Commanders' Conference in Orlando, Fla. He is purportedly the first host nation employee to ever receive the award.

The Stalwart Award recognizes one employee per region (there are four regions in United States), Pacific, Korea, Europe and one from IMCOM Headquarters.

"It's exceptional for USAG Benelux to have three nominees represent all of Europe," he said. "I'm honored and proud for several reasons. I'm the first non-U.S. employee to receive the award and I also take it as an honor for the entire host nation workforce."

USAG Benelux Commander Col. Dean A.

Stalwart: Sturdy, robust, a person unyielding in supporting a cause.

Nowowiejski said it is "a great honor to have three of our employees nominated as the representatives of IMCOM Europe for international recognition. "This duly recognizes the joint and international character of our Garrisons, since one nominee was a Dutch national, another was Belgian, and the third was an Air Force retiree and Vietnam veteran."

Boisdenghien said a host nation employee winning the Stalwart Award "Fits into the Standard Garrison Organization because garrison teamwork overseas is dependent on giving host nation employees a higher level of

responsibility."

Working in the Benelux has its challenges. "We have a force of host nation employees from 2 countries that comprises about half of our work force," Nowowiejski said. "Many of them have worked for the U.S. government all their lives. We depend on them, their dedication and teamwork, and leadership."

"This year's European Stalwart winner from the Benelux staff, and dual nominees from the Schinnen garrison are illustrative of a force of employees that is long overdue proper recognition," Nowowiejski said. "We deeply thank the IMCOM Regional staff for making this year's recognition a reality."

Verwasch explained that it was "An honor to be nominated and to know that within the command, my work was recognized as going above the standard." Beside conducting environmental business for USAG Schinnen, Verwasch provided environmental services to other garrisons in Europe.

Bonaparte said of his nomination, "When I found out that I was one of three representatives for IMCOM Europe, I was thrilled because it kind of set me apart from my peers and shows I was recognized by the command for my accomplishments. To be recognized at this particular level is icing on the cake, it is the Oscar of all Oscars as far as my career goals."

NOTE: LaDonna Davis as USAG Schinnen Public Affairs Office contributed to this report.

Brussels Soldier returns home

By Thad Moyseowicz

Brussels Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Anthony Maddox is no stranger to duty in the Central Command theater of operations.

His previous tour prior to his November, 2003 arrival in Brussels had been with an Army unit in Germany which deployed to Iraq.

"Since the U.S. Army Garrison in Brussels does not host any deploying units, I frankly didn't think I'd be returning to the theater for awhile," he says. But he had not figured on the catchphrase, "needs of the service."

Maddox has been in the Army since January of 2000. Prior to enlisting, he was employed as a welder and shipfitter at a commercial shipyard in his home state of Alabama.

Additionally, he admits to a prior enlistment in the Navy.

"I really enjoyed my job as a shipfitter," he says, "and I probably would have stayed with it had I not been promoted and made a foreman."

Maddox says that, at the time, he was not really ready for increased responsibility, so he quit his job and decided to give the U.S. Army a try.

A driver (88M) by Military Occupational Specialty, Maddox is assigned to the Brussels Garrison's Transportation and Motor Pool. "When I arrived in Brussels, I was assigned as a VIP driver," he remembers.

Providing ground transportation for scores of visiting senior U.S. military and civilian dignitaries who conduct the business of the United States at NATO Headquarters is one of USAG Brussels' principle missions. The high "throughput" of VIPs allowed Maddox to quickly build up experience to the point where he was appointed the garrison's assistant truckmaster. He also found himself steadily advancing and assuming greater responsibilities, attaining his current rank early this year.

Concurrent with Maddox' tour in Brussels, the Army has found itself still heavily engaged in Southwest Asia. Ongoing operations in that theater ensure personnel demand remains high.

Although the Benelux garrisons do not host deploying units, their complements are available to provide augmentation wherever the Army needs Soldiers.

Maddox recalls: "Early this spring, I learned of a need for temporary augmentees in my MOS within the Central Command theater, so I decided to volunteer."

Life went on after he submitted his name. Although he'd gotten his Brussels affairs in order and was prepared to move out at short notice, Maddox also decided to marry his Belgian fiancé. "I'd been married for all of a week," he chuckles, "when I shipped out to Fort Benning to attend the Combat Readiness Course."

On April 27th I started CRC. Upon finishing it a week later, I was sent to Macdill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. I still didn't know where I was ultimately going to fetch up." The U.S. Central Command is headquartered at MacDill, which is responsible for all U.S. military operations in the Southwest Asia region.

Once in Tampa, Maddox quickly found himself detailed to CENTCOM's Special Operations component commander. A couple of days of inprocessing followed, and, by May 17th, Maddox found himself at Camp As Sayliyah in the Emirate of Qatar at SOCCENT "Forward" headquarters and, as an E-6, he also found himself to be SOCCENT Forward's noncommissioned officer-in-charge of transportation.

Nearly seven years earlier, Maddox had quit a promising and enjoyable career as a shipfitter because he had not wanted the increased responsibility that came with promotion. Now, as an NCOIC - in other words, holder of a buck-stopper billet. And quitting was not an option.

"I found it to be an absolutely awesome and unforgettable experience," he says. "As a pretty junior E-6, I was running a joint operation, with three Air Force and four Army personnel under me, for a head-

quarters of about 400."

Maddox also found that he matured immensely as an NCO and as a person. Although he has been in the Army only six years, the 35-year-old says, "My troops were all 20 or 21 year olds, and, as an 'old man,' I found them hanging on my every word. This made me especially conscious of my responsibility for them and their welfare."

Maddox and his troops followed an unusual battle rhythm. Although they had to provide ground transportation 24 hours per day and thus employ a shift work scheme, the peak demand for their services was during the hours of darkness.

"It's all keyed to the arrival and departure of the airlift flights," says Maddox. "Because of the intense heat during the daylight hours, the majority of airlift movements occur at night. So that's when

most of our business was, from about 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. or so."

As NCOIC, Maddox could assign himself to any shift that pleased him.

"I placed myself on that night shift," he says, "because that's where most of the action was, and I wanted to have my finger on that pulse." Maddox believes this decision had other benefits.

"When your troops see you taking the tough jobs, their respect for you grows," he says.

Additionally, he found that once the night's work had tapered off, most of his people followed him to the facility gymnasium - another "leadership by example" opportunity.

"None of my people were 'gym rats' by nature," he says, "but I'm proud to say that all of them had greatly improved their physical fitness scores by the time we were done."

More important, he says, "I learned that the phrase 'taking care of Soldiers' has got to be more than rhetoric."

Qatar is not a combat zone, but Maddox found himself having significant contact with individuals coming straight from combat. "SOCCENT uses Camp As Sayliyah as a kind of in-theater R&R destination. SOCCENT people from Iraq and Afghanistan arrive there for a few days of relaxation and to have a beer."

Maddox found that many of these individuals "just wanted to talk to somebody" about their experiences. "I'm a good listener, and I came away from these encounters really amazed," he says. "I also felt I'd made a positive contribution by listening."

What does Maddox think of the support offered at Camp As Sayliyah?

"It was simply outstanding," he says. "Dining and fitness facilities were first-rate. Because of the long hours of daylight when I was there, there were constant Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored athletic tournaments after the heat of the day."

Maddox had several opportunities to venture into Doha, the capital of Qatar. "The Qatari people are friendly and their government is favorably disposed to the U.S.," he says.

One of the things he remembers best was a "Day of Revelry" laid on by the Emir of Qatar for the entire U.S. military footprint in Qatar. "It was incredible," he says. "Anything from superb food to jet-skiing on the beach was provided!"

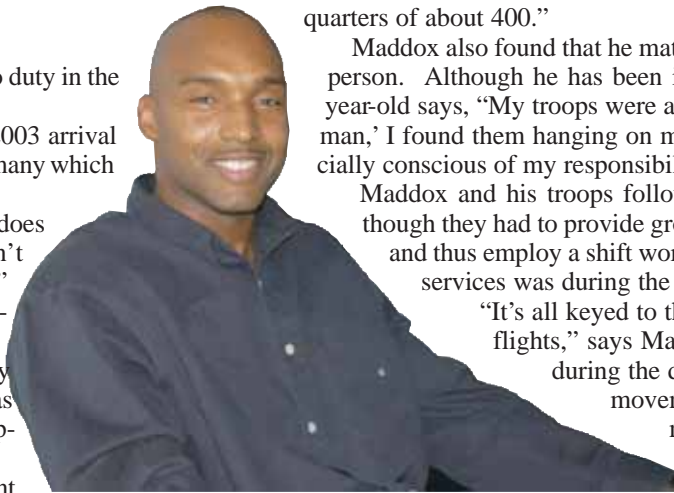
Did Maddox have any problems staying connected with his new wife?

"None whatsoever. My Belgian mobile phone worked in Qatar, and we stayed in daily touch through text messaging and actual conversations," he says. "The people back in Brussels also did a good job helping her."

Maddox several times emphasized that he returned from Qatar as a changed man. "I learned that nothing should be taken for granted, not family, not friends, not life itself."

He recently received orders to Fort Bragg, where he will report in Spring of next year. Does he have any last things he wants to do in Europe? "I'm going to do some horseback riding. That's something I've always wanted to do, and I just found out about a place near Mons. And, I'm going to take my wife to London."

His advice for his fellow Benelux Soldiers, "Always keep your basic military skills sharp. You never know when you're going to need them!"



Armed Forces Entertainment**Boyle to perform
Dec. 3 at SHAPE**

Armed with a blend of sultry sound and smooth guitar compilations, Jenny Boyle will perform for troops at SHAPE during her 15-performance European tour.

Boyle performed at the Prime Time Bar and Grill, Nov. 29, and will play Dec. 3 at the Events Center on SHAPE.

"I am so proud to be an American and I so admire our troops for the sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms," the 26-year-old entertainer is quoted as saying in an Armed Forces Entertainment press release. "I wanted to do something to show them how much they are loved and appreciated and to serve our country the only way I know how."

AAFES announces recalls

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company has announced a voluntary recall of some of its tires sold after Sept. 1. Coopers has determined that some tires may have been produced with nonconforming belt wire coat stock.

If placed in service, the tires may develop a belt separation due to a reduced ability to prevent corrosion of the steel wires in an instance where moisture reaches the steel belt possibly resulting in a vehicle crash. The tires affected are Cooper Lifeline Touring SLE," with Department of Transportation numbers 3DADC6D3206/3306 for the H-rated 185/65R15 88H size tires and 3D5JC893206/3306 for the T-rated 215/60R15 94H size tires.

Return the tire for a free replacement at an AAFES facility.

MPs team with Boy Scouts

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Sticky hands, black fingers and a curiosity that never ends. This may sound like your average rambunctious adolescent boy, but for Brunssum Boy Scout Troop 100, these traits are a sign that they're one step closer to earning a new badge- the fingerprinting badge.

Fingerprinting is a tool used throughout law enforcement agencies to help identify a person. Every person in the world is born with a unique, one-of-a-kind mark, or print on their fingers and toes that are left whenever they touch an object.

The finger printing badge is just one of many badges that each Boy Scout sets out to earn to show they have the knowledge and skills to be a productive and confident young man in society.

"Boy scouts are important to young boys so they can learn how to pitch a tent and all the other necessities of life like making a fire if they were lost in the woods," said 11-year-old Sebastian Strobel.

Though boy scouts across the country have the opportunity to earn this badge, what makes Troop 100 so unique is that they are situated in a military community which affords them the opportunity to talk and work with military police officers that work in the U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen community.

"To make Eagle Scout you have to earn a variety of merit badges, some are optional and some are not, and I chose this one because I thought it'd be easy since we have the MPs right here to help," said Shelly Naisbitt, Troop 100's committee chairperson. "It definitely helps to be in a military community and have the military police help out especially in instances like this; it really just reinforces the scouting values that we're trying to teach them."

In order to earn the badge, each boy is required to learn the history of fingerprinting and have an identification card made from a police officer, or military police officer, as the case may be-with their own unique finger prints on it.

"It definitely helps to be in a military community and have the military police help out especially in instances like this; it really just reinforces the scouting values that we're trying to teach them."

Shelly Naisbitt, Boy Scout Troop 100 committee chairperson

"I just want them to walk away knowing that no two fingerprints are alike, that they never change, and that there is a special fingerprints database out there," said Naisbitt.

"It's important that these boys learn about fingerprinting because at a young age children should know that their fingerprints never change and that it's a good tool for parents to use if their child is lost," said Staff Sgt. Earl Waller, the USAG Schinnen military police investigator. "It's also important for us as Soldiers to come and talk to these boys because I think as law enforcement, they see us as role models and we can teach them that being fingerprinted is a tool that can help children and isn't just something that's done when a person gets into trouble with the law."

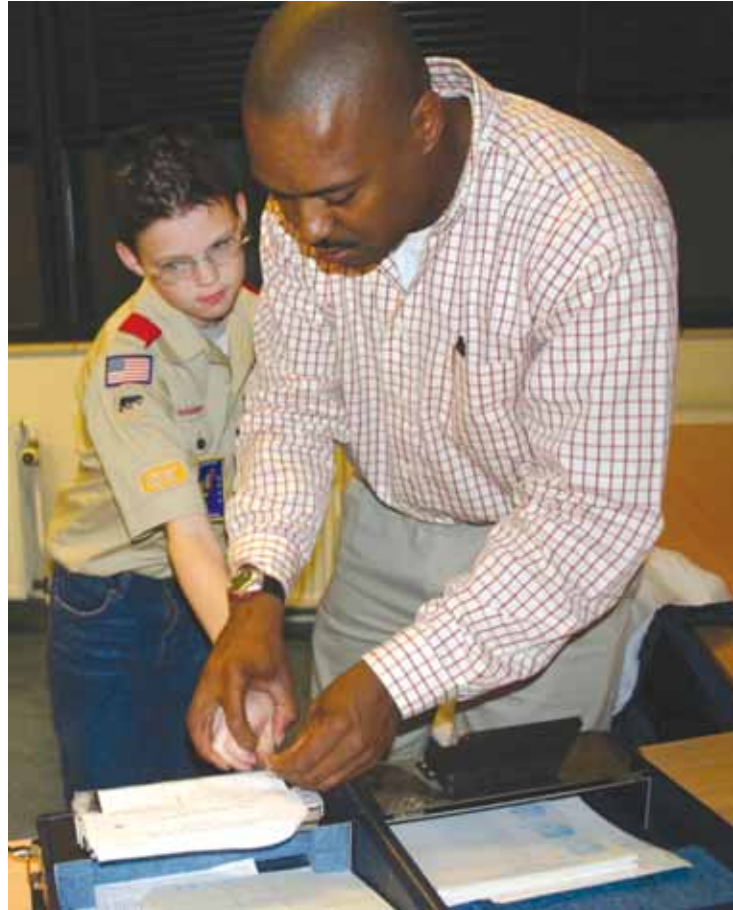


PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Staff Sgt. Earl Waller explains to a young boy scout the importance of fingerprinting while taking his prints during Troop 100's fingerprinting class held at USAG Schinnen in September. Each boy scout was required to have an identification card made and learn about the history of fingerprinting in order to earn the fingerprinting merit badge.

Hey Kids!

It's Report Card time again and you know what that means.

Good Grades Bring
Free Games!

Bring your latest report card into the Schinnen Bowling Center and you'll get a **FREE** game for each A and B. You needn't be an Einstein to see that this is one sweet deal.

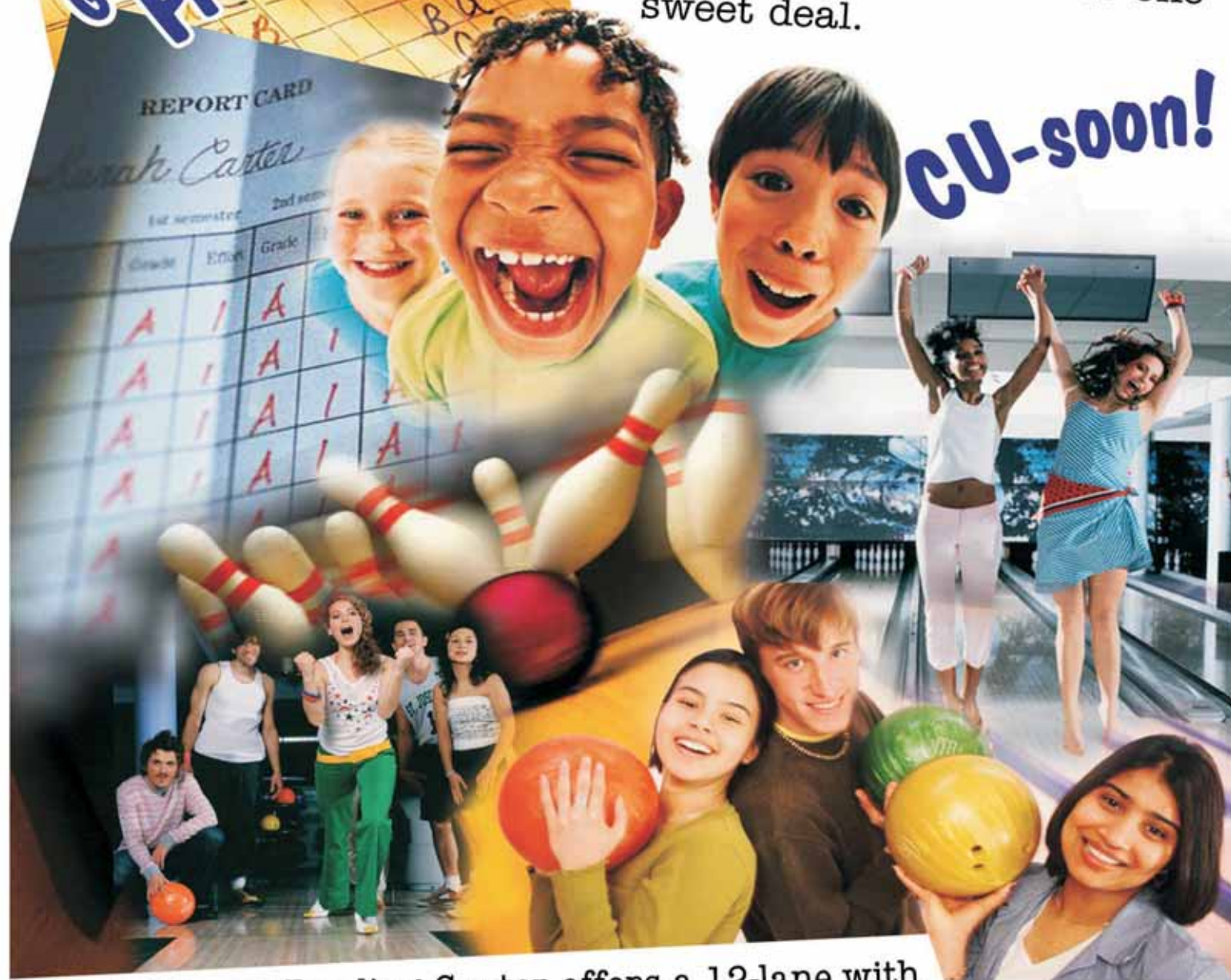
CU-soon!

REPORT CARD

Sarah Carter

1st semester 2nd semester

Grade	Effort	Grade
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A
A	1	A



The Schinnen Bowling Center offers a 12-lane with Cosmic Bowling every Friday starting at 6 p.m.
Open Wed - Sat, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sun 'til 6 p.m.

DSN 360-7207 / CIV 046-443-7207



BRING YOUR EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO THE 2007

AFAP Conference

Army Family Action Plan



A World of Experience
Within Our Community

Thursday & Friday

8 & 9 Feb

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen

Do you have a suggestion on how to improve the quality of life in the Schinnen Community? It could be that what you learned in Korea or at Fort Hood or in Italy might help resolve an issue here.

Look for the **ORANGE** boxes and issue forms throughout the community or email your suggestions to:

ACS-Schinnen@Eur.Army.Mil

Deadline for issues is Friday 9 January 2007

For more information call ACS, USAG Schinnen:
DSN 360-7500 / COM 046-443-7500



AFNORTH International School

Community winner in chili cook-off



PHOTO LaDonna Davis

Teachers, students, parents and chili lovers gathered for the AFNORTH International School's fourth annual chili cook off Oct. 13. Though many of the cooks boasted about how great their chili is, the final decision was ultimately up to the community members who got a chance to sample all the chili's and decide for themselves, who deserves the people's choice award for best chili.

Fundraiser, tradition spices up AIS homecoming week

LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Football, hotdogs and chili have always been a part of America's favorite pastime, and to continue on with that tradition, the AFNORTH International High School kicked off their homecoming week in with their fourth annual chili-cook off Oct. 13.

The event brings together those teachers, parents and students who claim to be the best-of-the-best chili chefs for one night as they each try to win the coveted best chili award. And with creative titles for their dishes such as Hillbilly Chili, Doc Wigley Down Home Chili and Spirit and Spice, each chili sounds as different as they taste.

"The American schools overseas don't have a lot of traditions like the schools in the states do, so we wanted to start an event that could become a tradition so people could look forward to and get excited about homecoming weekend," said Beverly Wigley, the AIS chili-cook off coordinator. "Any NATO or U.S. ID cardholder can enter and over the years the event has slowly grown and the kids are always really enthusiastic about it."

The judges, who are made up of community leadership, are given a variety of points to judge the chili on, from best tasting to best looking, each judge is then asked to score the chili for best in show.

Chili lovers from around the community are welcome to attend the event as taste-testers and judges for the "people's choice" award and

with spicy chili, sweet chili, white chili and every other chili in between, this event has a chili for every chili lover out there.

"I don't think chili should be really hot, I think you should be able to taste the flavors and with my sweet corn chili, there's a lot of corn and it's just a very sweet chili," said competitor Kelly Tucker,

"My chili is made with all natural ingredients, it's hand made and it's just a superb, edible chili that any person could eat a couple bowls full," said Clark Wigley, a fourth-year participant and two-time second place winner. "I'm going for the gold this year," he says.

"My chili is a little bit lighter than the normal chili; it's made with chicken and white beans," said Helen Gross, a parent and first-year competitor. "I've had this recipe for about 10 years and over the years I've altered it and made it a little bit spicier."

Though the event is a fundraiser for the AIS booster club, participants still can't help from partaking in a little friendly banter and trash talk, even if they are husband and wife, like Pat and Preston Ferris, two AIS High School teachers.

"My chili is delicately cooked like a chemist and his is a male throw it in the pot and hope for the best," said Mrs. Ferris about her fellow rival and husband. "I had to cut all the onions, even for his just so he would share the stove with me."

Of course Mr. Ferris has a different take on making chili. "I have a secret ingredient that

I use for my chili, I just throw stuff in the pot and hope for the best," he says.

Though neither of the Ferris' can agree on whose chili-cooking method is best, one thing they can agree on is who will win.

"I will," they both said simultaneously.

Like with any cook-off event, each chef thinks their chili is the one to beat, and this competition is no different. Many of the contestants spent hours over the stove perfecting their recipes, while others just stuck to old family recipes. But however they cook their chili, one thing is for sure, the crowd loves it.

"I can't really find any chili vendors in the Netherlands, and this is a good opportunity to get some good chili," said Keith Vanwagner.

"We enjoy chili and we want to support the school so we came out," said Dave Schiller, a Tri-border community member. "As we go through each chili, there isn't a bad chili; each one of them is enjoyable, very enjoyable. I'm struck by the fact that we haven't found one that we do not prefer. This is a good representation of great chili, all the different entries. It also gives us a chance to see real football outside as opposed to just soccer."

His wife agrees.

"I think it's a fun event that brings out great camaraderie and a little competition and everyone just sharing that and having a good time," said Joyce Schiller.

In addition to the chili-cook off, community members got a chance to win prizes and watch a very untraditional football game of Powder Puff where the girls wear the jerseys while the guys cheer them on.

"The event is just a great way to bring the community out and introduce them to our sports program and it's also just a fun way for everyone to enjoy themselves and build camaraderie among everyone," said Wigley.

Which picture will be you?



Cold



Warm

Furnaces heating up for winter

By SHAPE International Housing Office

It's getting cold again. Many are starting heating systems for the first time since May, or perhaps since moving in. A few tips to help you through the winter:

1. **Buy an electric space heater.** Starting at €15, these are the best insurance you can have when the repairman can't get to you for a few days.
2. **Get your furnace tune-up.** The furnace must be maintained once each year by a certified technician; now is the best time to do it.
3. **Understand how your thermostat works.** The technician can set it up for you during the maintenance visit, and explain it to you.
4. **Get your fireplace chimney swept now.** This must be done once each year by a certified sweeper, or your insurance could be voided.
5. Ensure your **electric and gas bills are paid** up to date. If you are new, and have never gotten a bill from Electrabel, visit their office in Frameries and find out if your account is open. Your furnace needs electricity to work. If you fall behind in your payments, they will cut off power.
6. If you use **mazout**, ensure you know where your tank is, how to fill it, how to measure how much is left in the tank, and how to order more. If you run out of mazout, you can damage your furnace. You must pay the repair bill if this happens.
7. Always **keep your mazout tank at least 1/3 full.** Always try to order at least a week in advance of when you need it. If you wait until the last minute, you might not be happy to find out you are 50th on the fuel truck dispatcher list!
8. Bleed any air from your radiators. Start upstairs and work your way down.
9. **Keep inside doors closed.** Open doors mean imbalanced radiators. Rooms cannot be heated efficiently or to the correct temperature. You are wasting money.
10. Safety. If you are using space heaters, electric or fuel-based, pay attention to fire safety and ventilation. Too many electric heaters will overload the circuit breaker. Fuel-based heaters use oxygen and produce carbon monoxide, a lethal combination every winter.
11. Know where your electric power shut-off switch is. Know where your water shut-off valve is. Know where your gas or mazout shut-off valves are. Know the emergency phone numbers for your town.
12. Do not hesitate to call the SHAPE International Housing Office to get help or advice at DSN: 423-5405 or 423-5456 Monday through Friday during normal duty hours.

Romance is in the air!

Valentine's Weekend in

Paris

9-12 Feb

\$279 pp. dbl.

Luxury motorcoach departs Friday at noon, arriving Paris at 6 p.m. Departs Monday at 4:45 p.m., arriving Schinnen at midnight. Includes three nights in a 3-Star hotel with breakfast and an optional city tour. \$399 for single room. \$149 for child (0-12 yrs.) staying in parents' room.

Register with full payment by 30 Dec 06 at the Andre Bruls Fitness Center. Open to U.S. and Canadian ID card holders.

For more info call DSN 360-7561 or CIV 046-443-7561
SchinnenFC@benelux.army.mil



Schinnen MWR Trips & Tours



is calling all **Singles** for an

Incredibly Fun Evening

FOR ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN WORKFORCE SINGLES

Free Bowling

FRI 8 DEC

Festivities get underway at
10 p.m. in the SCHINNEN
BOWLING CENTER

**X-Box
Tournament**

Dance Contest

Karaoke Fun

FREE Bowling, FREE food, Karaoke silliness, a dance contest and an X-Box tournament are all on an agenda that could run 'til dawn. **AADD will provide rides home.**

POC for this event is at DSN 360-7370 or 046-443-7347

If you're interested in joining other BOSS members for a shopping trip to Cologne's Christmas Market the following morning, please register with full payment by 2 December at the Andre Bruls Fitness Center on Schinnen. Cost is \$29 and the bus departs at 9 a.m.



PHOTO: Courtesy USAG Brussels

Children enjoy different crafts at the Brussels Arts and Craft Center's Saturday Intro to Art course.

Brussels Arts, Crafts Center reopens

By Thad Moyseowicz

Brussels Public Affairs Officer

The transformed and expanded U.S. Army Garrison Brussels Arts and Crafts Center has recently reopened.

The center went through a complete metamorphosis in the past four months, and has acquired an Arts and Cultural Center orientation that significantly expands upon its earlier status as a hobby shop.

Jen Bieser, the center director, is quick to point out that the normal facilities found in a multimedia arts and crafts center are still there.

"We have a large framing studio where you can learn how to frame your own projects, or if you prefer, you can have the center frame it for you. Of course it costs a bit more but in any case the framing is professional and much cheaper than anywhere you'll find in Brussels," she said.

The traditional wood shop, generous in size and with all of the amenities that expert wood workers might need, remains in place. An additional section has been added onto the wood shop for stone carving, stained glass window working and mosaic making.

Bieser adds, "Where once stood an office we now have a new art supply boutique which is developing and growing. Patrons from our Brussels community will soon have available most of their art supply needs as well as nifty art calendars and postcards."

Adjacent to art shop is a ceramic studio. The purple painted walls are covered in ceramic items just waiting to be turned into new creations. The ceramic studio has everything from holiday decorations to household items, including fun cocktail glasses which would be perfect for your next party.

Bieser notes that the center has also deliberately created studio space for both painting and ceramics practitioners.

"We know that many hobby painters and ceramic makers are serious about their work, yet

don't have their own personal studio space," she said. "Although our space is limited, we've tried hard to create an environment for you to come in and use our center to further your creative talents."

The center has not forgotten the many garrison customers who are cultural and art appreciators rather than creators.

Says Bieser, "We've built in a whole realm of new programs. The first Tuesday of every month we host an independent and international film evening, the third Thursday of every month we have a writers group, where you can read your own works or simply sit in and enjoy the environment with a glass of wine or cup of coffee."

Additionally, the center has kicked off a new season of art exhibitions and performances, where every six to seven weeks patrons can enjoy a professional vernissage and/or musical performance (a "vernissage" is the day prior to the opening of a formal art exhibition during which artists apply varnish and other finishing touches to their works; they are hence available to chat with patrons). In addition to all of the regular events, the center offers those small treasures one needs to look out for, such as wine tasting evenings or special guest speaker nights.

Bieser believes the new center offers something for everybody, young and old, artist or non-artist. For those who don't feel comfortable jumping straight into creativity without any guidance, the center offers various art courses to guide them along. There are fun things for the younger ones as well.

The ceramic studio offers birthday packages and after-school specials for those students who would like to do something different and creative. Feedback has been very positive for the children's Saturday Introduction To Art class.

"USAG Brussels MWR is proud of the new face of its Arts and Crafts Center and the services it offers the community," she said.

Community News

USAG Brussels

Toddler Playgroup - Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-Noon, Performing Arts Center, Bldg. 4, ground floor, no sign up required. The playgroup will stop for the holidays Dec. 15 and resume Jan. Call CIV: 02-717-9783 or DSN 368-9783 for more information.

Infant CPR and First Aid - Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Fellowship Hall, Chapel area, Bldg. 2. (Advanced sign up with Army Community Service is required.)

Brussels 20K Run - Brussels Sports and Fitness Center, Bldg. 3, is gearing up for the Brussels 20K Run. Get ready for this big race in the spring by conditioning throughout the winter: Jan. 16 until May 27. For more information call DSN 368-9667, CIV 02 717-9667.

Ceramic Studio in Brussels - is offering a half price, after school special for students interested in ceramics. This program is offered for school-age students only. For more information, call 027179529.

3-Star Lounge in Brussels is open to all tri-mission ID cardholders and accompanied guests 18 years and older on Thursdays from 5-10 p.m., Fridays from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., and open only for scheduled special events on Saturdays. Minors are welcome during most activities when supervised by a parent or adult 18 years or older. For information, call 02 717-9882.

Right Arm Night - The first Friday evening of each month, the 3-Star Lounge hosts Right Arm Night. Call 02 717-9882 for more information.

Brussels Sports & Fitness Center offers a skiing fitness program through February to help skiers get ready for the slopes. For an appointment or to pick up a fitness sheet, call CIV: 02-717-9667 or DSN 368-9667.

Outdoor Recreation - in Brussels is offering the upcoming trips:

Dec. 2 Charles Dickens Christmas Market

Dec. 9 Aachen/Monchau Christmas Market

Dec. 16 Trip-Cologne Christmas Market

Dec. 23 Canterbury

For more information, call CIV: 02-717-9775 or DSN 368-9775.

Community News

Battle of the Bulge

29th Annual Memorial walk set

The 29th annual Battle of the Bulge Memorial Walk is scheduled for Dec. 16 in Bastogne, Belgium.

Participants may choose to walk six, 14 or 20 kilometers. The self-paced trek begins 8 a.m. at Porte de Trèves Sports Center, near the Mardasson Memorial and the Bastogne Historical Center.

The 4-euro per person registration fee includes a certificate from the city of Bastogne, a walk brochure and a cloth patch commemorating the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Preregistration and payment before Dec. 2 is strongly recommended.

Walkers can also register at the starting point on the day of the walk between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. The non-reserved registration fee is 5 euros. There will be a limited number of open-bay billets available to NATO Soldiers for a small fee.

Persons interested in participating who live in Germany, England and Italy may register via e-mail at ed.germany@t-online.de, by fax at (049) (0)6507-80-2617 or by calling (049) (0)6507-8292. Participants from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg may send an e-mail to sb325983@skynet.be or call (032) (0)2-687-6158.

Holiday mail deadlines

To ensure Chièvres Garrison community members packages sent to the United States are delivered before Christmas, the American post offices on Chièvres Air Base and SHAPE recommend the following deadlines for shipping packages.

- » Parcel Air Lift - Dec. 4
- » Priority Parcels/First Class letters - Dec. 11
- » Express Mail Dec. 18

The Chièvres APO is open Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Job opportunities workshop

Army Community Service is hosting a job opportunities workshop for community members on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. until noon at Hotel Le Maisières. Call DSN: 423-5324 for more information.

Weight loss challenge

Andrews Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the Chièvres Garrison's Biggest Loser Weight Loss Challenge program Jan. 9-Apr. 2. The person who loses the most weight during the 12 weeks will win a \$500 savings bond and the runner-up receiving a \$100 savings bond. Call DSN. 361-5506 for details.

Christmas 1944

WWII Soldiers legacy lives



PHOTO: File

American World War II Soldiers gathered in a cave in Maastricht, Netherlands in 1944 for a Christmas Eve mass before fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. All 300 Soldiers etched their names in the soft sandstone cave walls. Today, the names of the Soldiers remain etched in the walls and are preserved with a Plexiglass cover. Each Christmas Eve, a memorial service is held in the caves in the Soldiers' honor.

Candlelight mass held in fallen Soldiers' honor

By: LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Sixty-two years ago on Dec. 24, 1944, 300 U.S. Soldiers gathered for a candlelight mass in a cave at St. Peters Mountain in Maastricht, the Netherlands before heading off to battle the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

With no electricity or heat, the Soldiers' only source of light was by candle. Led together in a Christmas Eve mass by Fahter Dobrzinsky of New York, the Soldiers celebrated what very well might have been their last night together.

After the mass was over, each Soldier etched

his name on the cave walls with charcoal so their memory and sacrifice would live on forever in the hearts of the people who would pass through.

More than a half century later, "Every Christmas Eve since, the mass in this cave is celebrated to remember the brave men who gave their lives for freedom. Their names are a true symbol for everything worth fighting for and an everlasting memory of the horrors of war," said Rita Hoefnagels, mistress of the last year's memorial service.

Each year, 300 American Soldiers, civilians and family members from the Tri-border community, along with Dutch veterans and their families are invited to attend the ceremony sponsored by the Scharck Cave Commemoration Association to remember and reflect on those Soldiers who sacrificed for freedom.

During the ceremony, the lights in the cave are turned off and chemical light sticks are usually handed out to replicate the darkness in which the 300 Soldiers in 1944 spent the night.

The 2.8-kilometer long caves were bought by the monks of The Brothers of Maastricht in 1921 as a retreat where they come once a month to draw and sculpt on the soft sandstone walls. The signatures of each of the 300 soldiers from 1944 are preserved by a large plexiglass shield to prevent any damage from visitors.

This year (prior to press time), it is still undetermined whether the 2006 Scharck Mass would be held. For more information, call (0031) 046-443-7331 or DSN 360-7331.



PHOTO: File

American World War II soldiers names are still visible in the cave 62 years later.

Christmas Markets in the Netherlands

Editor's Note: The following is a list of Christmas Markets in the Netherlands near USAG Benelux supported installations. There are several others spread throughout the country.

Dec. 1-Dec. 19:

* *Christmas Market* in Fluweelengrot (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg is held in the caves under the castle ruins. Opens in the weekends at 10 a.m. and on weekdays at noon; Closes Sun. - Thur., at 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., at 9 p.m. Entry: €3.75; children (4-11) €1.75.

* *Christmas Market in a Cave* at Gemeentegrot in Valkenburg. Open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: €3.50; children (4-11) €1.75.

Dec. 1-Dec. 23:

* *Floating Christmas Market* in Maastricht. Stiphout Shipping Company's largest ship, which can be found at the Maaspromenade, is the location of a Christmas Market. The ship is decorated for Christmas and features all kind of stands with traditional and typical Christmas items. There is no entrance fee and the market is open during normal shopping hours.

Dec. 1-Jan. 7:

* *Winterland* in Maastricht. The Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There are many stands and traditional and nostalgic attractions and through Dec. 23 you will find a Christmas Market in the surrounding streets, daily open 11 a.m.-9 p.m., on Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 7-10:

* *Attractive Christmas Country Fair* at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" estate near the town of Beesd. The estate's main house is open to the public; there will be choirs and more than 50 stands with a variety of Christmas articles. Sledge rides are also available. Open: Dec. 7-9, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €10.

* *"Kerst Crea" - Christmas Fair* at Beursgebouw, Lardinoisstraat in Eindhoven. The fair offers home decorations, Christmas gifts, cooking and creative recreation. Open: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: €8; children 11 and younger - free entrance.

Dec. 8-10:

* *Santa's Christmas Fair* at Grote Kerk in The Hague offers decorations, knick-knacks; table-linen, furniture and lots more. Regional products; wines; game and recipes for a traditional Christmas are also available. Open: Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 9-10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €8.50; children (12 and younger) €1.50.

Dec. 9:

* *Christmas Market "Dalem at Candle-Light."* A large Christmas Market takes place in Dalem near Gorinchem from 3-10 p.m.

* *Living Christmas History at a village square.* In the middle of the colorful historic center of Den Ham in the province of Overijssel offers historic, antique and old-fashioned goods, food, decorations and more. Open: noon-8



PHOTO: File

Christmas Market in Valkenburg, the Netherlands

p.m.

* *Oriental Christmas Market* on Kanaalstraat 9 in Utrecht.

Dec. 10:

* *Indoor Christmas Market* at "De Grote Hegge" Castle in Thorn. Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €3.

Dec. 12:

* *Light up evening* from 4 p.m.-10 p.m. in Delft. The city is in the atmosphere all afternoon awaiting the highlight of the day which is the lighting of the enormous Christmas tree at the Market Square in the center.

* *Candle-Night in Gouda.* Thousands of candles are lit behind the windows of the town hall and the house around the market square.

Dec. 12-17:

* *Christmas at Castle Middachten.* The castle near the town of De Steeg opens its door for the public. A Christmas Market can be found in the castle's outbuildings. Open: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Entry: €8; children (4-12) €4.

Dec. 15-17:

* *Christmas Market* in Dordrecht with Winterwonderland fair; more than 250 stands; choirs; nostalgic Christmas attractions; old crafts; and lots more. Open: Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dec. 16:

* *Ravenstein at Candlelight.* Starting at 3 p.m., a Christmas market can be found at the small squares in the center of this historic town. At 6:30 p.m., the church bells will ring and all lights will go out while candles are lit in the windows of the historic buildings.

Dec. 16-17:

* *A Christmas Carol.* Every year in December, Bronkhorst changes into scenes from Dickens famous "A Christmas Carol." The town is known for its Dickens Museum (Onderstraat 2). Open both days 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: €2.50.

* *Dickens Fest.* The historical Bergkwartier in Deventer is changed into a city from Dickens' times. Visitors will meet more than 350 Victorian personalities and characters from Dickens' stories, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. On Dec. 17, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., there is also a Christmas Market with more than 200 stands in the center.

Dec. 19-Jan. 7:

* *Christmas at Palace "Het Loo"* near Apeldoorn - visitors will get a glimpse of what Christmas used to be like with the Dutch Royal Family for the past 300 years. The beautifully laid tables and yuletide greenery transform the palace into a beautiful Christmas setting. Open: Tue.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Mondays and Jan. 1. Entry: €9; children (6-17) €3.

Dec. 24, 26, 27 and 31:

* *Old-fashioned steam train rides with Christmas and New Years.*

During these days one can enjoy a ride in the old-fashioned steam train (called Million Line) through the winter scenery from Simpelveld to Schin op Geul. Sitting on the plush couches in a decorated first-class coach visitors can travel through the hills of Limburg. The train-stations are decorated and offer glühwein or hot chocolate. Round-trip tickets for these special rides cost €10; children (5-12) €5. Start from the Simpelveld Station is at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. From the Schin op Geul Station the train departs at 10:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m., and 4:45 p.m. On Sunday Dec. 31, the last trains will leave at 2 and 2:45 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 0031-(0)45-5688120 Tue.-Fri. during office hours. A special culinary coach is open Dec. 24, 26 and 31 and offers an afternoon-tea to passengers. The Christmas-tea-train starts from Station Simpelveld on Dec. 24 and 26 at noon and 2 p.m. and on Dec. 31 at noon. Costs are €30 and reservations are required.

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\$5 additional person

Hotel Le Maisières - 189a Ch. De Bruxelles - 7020 Maisières, Belgium

DSN TEL: 366-7212

Hotel Le Maisières - IMEU-CHV-MWB - UNIT 21420 - APO AE 09705

Christmas Markets In Belgium

Editor's Note: The following is a list of Christmas Markets in Belgium near USAG Benelux supported installations. There are several others spread throughout the country.

Dec. 2-3:

* *Christmas & Creative Fair* at Limburghal on Jaarbeurslaan in Genk is a large, indoor traditional Christmas Market with more than 150 stands offering a variety of original gifts. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €6; children 12 and younger – free entrance.

* Belgium's largest *Christmas Fair* (indoor) is located at the Oktoberhallen in Wieze with more than 300 stands and a variety of Christmas articles. Entry: €3. Open: Dec. 2, 2 p.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dec. 2-30:

* *Christmas Village* at Place de Marché and Place Saint Lambert in Liège has become one of the largest and most attractive fairs in Belgium, attracting more than a million visitors with its traditional German-style Christmas markets, "Village de Noël."

Dec. 2-Jan. 1:

* *Winter Wonders* in Brussels. Every winter, the heart of Brussels beats to the rhythm of "plaisirs d'Hiver" (winter pleasures) featuring a beautiful European Christmas Market (Europe's most originally) which is illuminated by the Big Wheel; roundabouts; street activities and an ice-skating rink. Open: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 8-10:

* *Christmas Market* at Place Cardinal Mercier in Jette. Open: Dec. 8, 4 p.m.-11:30 p.m.; Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 10, noon-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at Château (Castle) du Karreveld on Avenue Jean de la Hoese in Molenbeek-Saint-Jean. Open: Dec. 8, 6 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 9, 2 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at Place Dumon in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre. Open: Dec. 8-9, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 8-31:

* *Christmas Market* at Grote Markt in Ypres. The Grote Markt has 50 stands and a large ice rink. Open: Mon.-Fri., 3 p.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 8-Jan. 7:

* *Christmas in Antwerp*. The ice rink and Christmas Village at Grote Markt are open Sun.-Wed., noon-10 p.m.; Thur.-Sat., 1 p.m.-11 p.m.; Dec. 8, 8 p.m.-midnight; Dec. 24 & 31, 2 p.m.-10 p.m.; and Dec. 25 & Jan. 1, 2 p.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 8-26:

* *Christmas Market* at Groenplaats in Antwerp. Open: Mon.-Thur., 1 p.m.-8 p.m.; Fri., 1 p.m.-10 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 8, 3 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Dec. 25, 1-6 p.m.

* *Christmas and New Year Fair* at Parc de Sept-Heures in Spa. The fair features many stands and is located near the covered ice-skating rink. Open: Mon.-Fri., 2-8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-



PHOTO: File

Christmas Market in Liège, Belgium

6 p.m.

Dec. 9-10:

* *Christmas Market* at Esplanade in Ath. Open both days 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Drogenbos, open: Dec. 9, 2 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 10, noon-6 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at Maison Communale (Community Center) on Square S. Hoedemaekers in Evere. Open: Dec. 9, noon-8

Dec. 10:

* *Christmas Market* at Place Andrée Payfa in Watermael-Boitsfort. Open: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 10-11:

* *Christmas Market* in Geel. The square is changed into a 19th century Christmas Village and actors in Victorian costumes play scenes from Oliver Twist. Open: Dec. 10, 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 11, 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in "Het Begijnhof" (Beguinage) in Lier.

Dec. 13-17:

* *Christmas Market* in Leuven, open 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Dec. 15-17:

* *Christmas Market* at Place de la Vaillance in Anderlecht. Open: Dec. 15, 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at Place Sainte-Croix in Ixelles. Open: Dec. 15, 3 p.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at Place Saint-Lambert in Woluwe-Saint-Lambert. Open: Dec. 15, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 16-18:

* *Christmas Market* at Grote Markt in Mechelen. Open: Dec. 16, 2 p.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 17:

* *Christmas Happening* at Castle Alden Biesen near Bilzen. Christmas stories are told and shepherds sing Christmas songs. Open: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: €3.

* *Christmas in Barns* in Fraiture-Vielsalm. About 15 barns are open to the public in Fraiture (town of the Baraque de Fraiture). Crafts, typical Ardennes food and fireworks start at 7 p.m.



PHOTO: File

Village de Noel in Liège, Belgium

p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Grimbergen with 80 stands. Open: 1:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at "Ontmoetingscentrum De Linde" in Linter. Open: 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Entry: €1.

* *Christmas Market* at Place de la Maison Communale in Waterloo.

Dec. 9-23:

* *Christmas Market* at Grand Place in Mons with numerous stands, attractions, choirs, entertainment. Open: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Christmas Markets in Germany

Editor's Note: Nearly every city in Germany has at least one Christmas Market. Most of them are open daily through Dec. 23 from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. The following is a list of Christmas Markets in Northern Germany near USAG Benelux supported installations..



PHOTO: Courtesy Uli Kowatsch

The largest and oldest Christmas market - Christkindlemarkt - is in Nuremberg, Germany - and is opened every year from Dec. 4-Dec. 24.

Dec. 1-3:
* *Nikolaus Market* in the center of Geilenkirchen. Open: Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m.; Dec. 2-3, 11 a.m.-p.m.

Dec. 1-17:
* *Christmas Market* long the River Mosel in Cochem. The Reichsburg (Castle) overlooks the market. Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at the market square in medieval Bernkastel-Kues. Open: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 1-21:
* *Christmas Market* at historic Römerberg, Paulsplatz and Mainkai in Frankfurt am Main. Open: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Rostock - the largest Christmas market in Northern Germany. Open: Mon.-Thur., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 1-22:
* *Christmas Market* in Kaiserslautern. Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at the medieval market in Trier - Germany's oldest city, founded more than 2,000 years ago. Open: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at the market square in the old historic center of Hannover. A *Finnish Christmas Village* with all kinds of Finnish specialties can be found at Ballhofplatz. Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 1-23:
* *Christmas Market* in Mannheim. Open: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

* *Christmas Fair* in Mainz. The historic market square in Mainz is during this period a blaze of lights. The air is scented with a mixture of roasted almonds, gingerbread, hot chestnuts and mulled wine. Against the backdrop of the over thousand year old Cathedral of St. Martin visitors will find an enchanted market. Apart from the typical figures as an angel and Santa Claus, one will also find figures representing the history of Mainz, such as Gutenberg and the Roman commander Drusus, at the pyramid. Open: Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Aachen. Open daily 11

a.m.-8:30 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Monschau. The market is only open on Fri., 2 p.m.-8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Bamberg. Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* at Neumarkt and Alter Markt in

Cologne. Around the Imhoff-Stollwerck-chocolate museum a Medieval Christmas market and a Fairy Tale Christmas market at Rudolfplatz. Open: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. A floating Christmas market aboard the "MS Wappen von Mainz" is located near the Cologne philharmonic orchestra house. Open: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Dortmund. More than 300 stands and a 45-meter high Christmas tree decorated with 13,000 lights. Open: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., noon-9 p.m.

* *Christmas Market* in Hameln. Open: Mon.-Thur., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *A Fairy Tale Christmas Market* at Königsplatz and Friedrichsplatz in Kassel. Kassel is the hometown of two brothers - The Grimm Brothers famous for their fairy tales. Market is open daily from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *The Christmas Market* in Münster is uniquely comprised of six markets with more than 280 stands. Open: Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

* *Christmas Market of Nations* in the historical old quarters of Rüdesheim. About 120 stands will represent 12 nations Christmas customs and traditions from all over the world. Europe's largest nativity scene with life-size figures can be found at the market square. Open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Fair* at the historic market square against the imposing back-drop of the Cathedral in Mainz. Open: Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

* *Münchner Christkindl-markt (Christmas Market)* at several locations in München. The largest is found around the town hall. Open: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

* One of the best known *Christmas Market* is located around the Frauenkirchen in Nürnberg. Open: Mon.-Wed., 9:30 a.m.-8

p.m.; Thur.-Sat., 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sun., 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

Dec. 1-24:

* *Christmas Market* with 150 stands in Augsburg. Open: Mon.-Thur., 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Dec. 1-30:

* *Christmas Markets* in Lübeck hosts several Christmas and art markets at Rathausmarkt, Koberg and Breite Strasse. Open Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun., 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; the Christmas Fairy Tale Market at Hinter dem Rathaus is open daily 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; the Christmas Art Fair at Heiligen-Geist-Hospital is open 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Entry €2; the medieval Christmas market at Marienkirchhof is open daily 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; the Christmas Art Fair is held at the St. Petri Church, open daily 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Entry €2; the Christmas Bazaar at Niederegger on Breite Strasse. Open: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 1-31:

* *Christmas Market* in Berlin. The capital of Germany has many Christmas markets and events. The largest is in Gendarmenmarkt; there are markets at Marlene-Dietrich-Platz; around the Gedächtniskirche; at Schlossplatz; Breidscheidplatz and in the Spandauer Altstadt. All are open daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dec. 1-23:

* *Twinkling Star Market* at Schlossplatz in Wiesbaden. The idyllic square and historic palace is the backdrop for Christmas market. Four entry gates decorated with the golden lilies lend access to this quaint village. Open: Mon.-Thur., 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 10:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sun., noon-9 p.m.

Dec. 9-10:

* *Nikolausmarkt* in the center of Rheindahlen. Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

* *Christmas Art Fair* at Schloss (castle) Rheydt near Mönchengladbach. Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 10:

* *Christmas Market* around the castle of Borghes in Emmerich am Rhein. Open: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.



PHOTO: Courtesy Uli Kowatsch

The largest and oldest Christmas market - Christkindlemarkt - is in Nuremberg, Germany - opened every year from Dec. 4-Dec. 24.

‘Tis the holiday season

Christmas in the Netherlands

Commentary

By Rita Hoefnagels

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

To me, Christmas means snow, candles, nicely decorated open fire places, the smell of fir trees, warmth and coziness, and of course, celebrating the holidays in the midst of family and friends.

Christmas in the Netherlands is actually a religious family fest and although it is becoming more and more a tradition to give presents with Christmas, traditionally presents were only giving on Dec. 5 or 6 with the fest of Sinterklaas.

I'm often asked if Sinterklaas or Saint Nicolas is the same as Santa Claus and every time I have to say no. It is easy to see the difference.

□ For instance, Sinterklaas or Saint Nicolas is celebrated on Dec. 5 and 6 while Santa visits on Christmas Eve.

□ Sinterklaas rides on a white horse on rooftops and delivers presents for children in their shoes which are lined up by the fireplace. Santa prefers a sleigh drawn by reindeer and travels through the sky. He delivers the presents in Christmas stockings hung by the fireplace and under lit-up Christmas trees.

Santa's helpers are elves. Sinterklaas has its "Zwarte Pieten."

Sinterklaas wears an episcopate and carries a bishop's cross while Santa's hat looks a bit like an old fashion nightcap.

But, both have a white beard. Here we have at least one similarity!

Legend has it that in the 4th century Sinterklaas or Saint Nicolas was the bishop of Myra in Turkey. He used his wealth to fight injustice and gave everything to the poor. Three stories are known in which the Saint plays a big role. In one he helps three maidens who were forced by poverty to lead an immoral life. Three nights long the holy man threw gold through their open door and provided the girls with a dowry. In doing so, he saved the girls from poverty and a life of crime.

Another legend tells us the story how he brought three children back to life who had been murdered; and, in the third story, he is sailing the ocean when a storm has his ship sinking. Through prayers the Saint was able to quiet the storm and save the lives of the crew and of course himself. He is also the patron saint for the sailors.

Historians think Saint Nicolas' long white beard and his white horse can be traced back to the Teutonic god, Wodan, who flew through the sky on his beautiful white horse Sleipnir.

The Dutch colonists in America kept the tradition of Sinterklaas alive and after a while



PHOTO: File

Christmas Market in Valkenburg, the Netherlands. There are more than a hundred Christmas markets across Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

the English colonists liked the festivities and adopted the legend as well. It is said that the English speaking children would get as excited as the Dutch children and they would pronounce the Dutch "Sinterklaas" so fast it started to sound like "Santa Claus". Saint Nicolas is also the patron Saint of New York.

Until 1800, the holy man/Santa was pictured in the United States as a tall, skinny and stately man dressed in bishop's robes and riding on a white horse. This changed in 1809 when Washington Irving published a new version of him in *Knickerbocker's History of New York*. Irving described Santa Claus as a chubby and pleasant man dressed in trousers and wearing a wide-brimmed hat.

Then on Dec. 23, 1823, a New York newspaper published the poem *An Account of a Visit from Saint Nicolas*, now more known as 'Twas the night before Christmas....

In this story, Santa is described as a chubby and jolly person with twinkling eyes and a red nose and dressed in a red suit with white fur trimmings. He travels through the sky on his sleigh pulled by reindeer and delivers presents on Christmas Eve.

Thomas Nast, an American cartoonist with *Harpers Weekly* gave Santa a beard in a series of strips that were published in the period 1863-1886. Nast even showed Santa's workshop in his strips.

Perhaps the final stage in the evolution of the modern Santa Claus was brought about by publicity from the Coca-Cola Company. They launched an advertising campaign in the 1930s with Santa Claus as the central figure and subsequently used the motif for the next 40 years or so.

This conception of Santa Claus was pro-

duced for them by Haddon Sundblom, who built on the character and costume created by Nast to produce a cheery, chubby fellow that is still a familiar perception of the mythical Christmas character to millions of people throughout the Western world.

In the Netherlands, Christmas has two festive days, Dec. 25 and 26. In the southern part of the Netherlands, which is predominantly Catholic, many people attend a night mass on Dec. 24. My family always did and for me, several of the finest and nicest memories are from that time. When we came home after the night mass, which would be around midnight, my mother would serve us so called "sausage rolls."

The memory of sitting around a festive set table, which was only lit by candles and the Christmas tree lights and enjoying the oven warmed rolls just brings back the feeling of being safe and warm in the midst of my family.

Just like on Christmas Day, Dec. 26, (here called Second Christmas Day) is also celebrated with family. The highlight is Christmas dinner which, in many homes consists of rabbit marinated in wine and vinegar. Through the years many traditions have changed and more and more families dine out on both Christmas days.

Personally I always enjoyed decorating the tree and visiting the Christmas Markets.

The largest and oldest Christmas market - Christkindlemarkt - is probably the Gingerbread and Toy City in Nuremberg, Germany - and is opened every year from Dec. 4-Dec. 24.

Traditionally, almost every town in Germany has at least one market, but in the last decade, markets have become a tradition in the Netherlands and Belgium as well.

Santa Claus is coming to town!



Join family and friends for the
USAG Schinnen

2006 Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thurs 7 Dec

Starts 5:30 p.m. at the
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Refreshments, the AIS Band & Choir, GK
Elementary school choir, dance group, and
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Education

Educator highlight

Brussels advisor assisting Soldiers

By Ela Karczewska, ESO

USAG Benelux Education Center

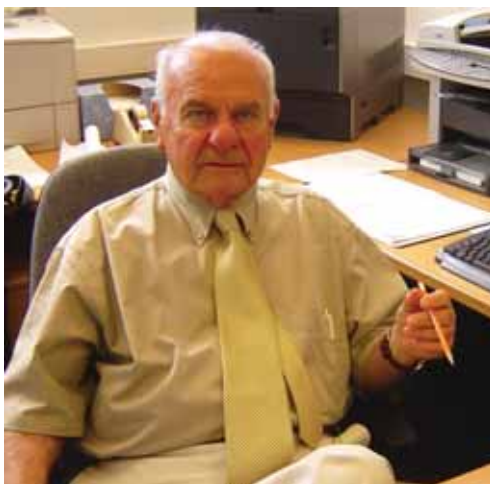
Dr. Joseph Heinlein, often called Dr. Joe by students and co-workers alike, is well known in the Brussels community.

He is the academic advisor working for the USAG Benelux Education Center on the third floor of the USAG Brussels complex.

Dr. Joe's friendly smile, encouraging words and sound counseling advice make the education center a place where many students stop by, even if they only have a minute or two and are on the way to some other place.

He loves helping Soldiers, Marines, Airmen or Sailors and their family members find the right path to pursue their educational and professional goals.

Heinlein is fascinated by international students who undertake a difficult - and rather expensive - goal of earning a college degree. He calls his students affectionately "kids." He himself has a long and distinguished career as an Army officer, college professor, and director



Dr. Joseph Heinlein

Academic Advisor

of Boston University in Brussels. He understands the importance of a college degree to a person's career, opportunities, and quality of life.

Defense Commissary Agency

Scholarship applications accepted

By Bonnie Powell

Army News Service

FORT LEE, Va. - Gas prices are biting into the family budget, interest rates are rising and college tuition is outpacing inflation. But, relief is in sight for military families as the 2007 Scholarships for Military Children program opens.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded at www.commissaries.com, www.militaryscholar.org, or www.dodea.edu.

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, Defense Commissary Agency director and chief executive officer. "Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling over \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of military active-duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members.

Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers selling groceries in commissaries, and every dollar donated to the program goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

A significant number of scholarships, about

10 percent every year, go to high school students at Department of Defense Dependents schools overseas.

"Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

Applications for 2007, which include an essay on "how and why" the applicant would change an historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business on Feb. 21. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the 2007 fall term, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Community News

Chièvres Garrison

Benelux Headstart

The Benelux Headstart class will be held Jan. 8-12. Offered by the USAG Benelux Education Center on SHAPE, the class combines French language instruction with information about Belgium, its history, geography and political system. It also provides survival tips and practical information about living in Belgium.

A trip on the last day gives participants an opportunity to practice newly acquired language skills. The class is mandatory for U.S. service members, although others are welcome on a space available basis.

For more information call the center at DSN: 423-3466 or CIV:065-443466.

Education

Overseas Contracted Universities, Colleges

Chièvres Garrison

University of Maryland University College Europe DSN 423-5173, CIV 065-445173

University of Oklahoma
DSN: 423-3654, CIV: 065-443654

University of Phoenix
DSN: 423-4645, CIV: 065-444645

Central Texas College
DSN: 423-7447, CIV: 065-447447

USAG Brussels

University of Maryland University College Europe DSN: 368-9765, CIV: 02-7179765

Central Texas College
DSN: 368-9709, CIV: 02-7179709

USAG Schinnen

University of Maryland University College Europe DSN: 364-6001, CIV: 045-5266001

University of Oklahoma
DSN: 364-6003, CIV: 045-5266001

Central Texas College
DSN: 364-6005, CIV: 045-5266005

University of Phoenix - MBA Cohort

The University of Phoenix offers a Master of Business Administration program that develops students for a role as a manager with special emphasis on defining business problems, assessing an array of complex information, and choosing the optimal solution.

The next MBA Cohort will start in January. For more information call DSN: 423-4645 or 065-444645.

Safety:

Protect vehicles against winter weather MWR Auto Skills centers can help

Hats are off to those who have prepared their vehicles for the winter months ahead. But for the rest, it is time to remind you that vehicle winterizing is more than good maintenance, it is all about safety.

Although Belgium, Northern Germany and the Netherlands are not known for large amounts of snow, there is a much more dangerous driving condition that can make the most cautious driver do tail spins - black ice.

Black ice is when the road appears to be clear of ice and snow, but, in fact it is not, it is covered with ice that is not visible to the driver.

Black ice is created when a layer of dew freezes on streets or roads, when temperatures drop below freezing and a fog or light drizzle of rain is present, or the re-freezing of wet roads.

Although there is little one can do when encountering black ice, other than practicing good driving technique, you can prepare your vehicle for winter weather and take the steps necessary to protect yourself and your family during periods of inclement weather.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Auto Skills Centers can help. They offer winterizing services, or, for the do-it-yourselfers or shade-tree mechanics who have the time and knowledge, they can take advantage of the tools and equipment at the center to do it themselves.

What is winterizing?

Winterizing is taking key steps to ensure your vehicle is ready for the cold months ahead.

1. Evaluate your tire tread and if there are any tread problems, buy new "all-weather" tires.
2. Ensure fluid levels for oil, antifreeze and windshield wipers are replenished.
3. Purchase new window wipers, blades, belts, spark plugs, and battery to keep the vehicle running like new.
4. Keep a few items like blankets, water, and snacks in the trunk in case you become stranded.
5. A charged cell phone loaded with plenty of call minutes and emergency numbers is always a good idea.
6. Also a working flashlight with good batteries and maps of the area can help someone pinpoint where you are if stranded.
7. Extra gas coupons or gas cards are always a smart move.
8. Possibly joining a car club like Euro Assistance, similar to AAA from the states, can prevent headaches and provide help when needed. You can sign up for this service at your local FORTIS Bank. (Netherlands)
9. Finally, make sure your vehicle First Aid Kit is fully stocked. Look inside the kit to ensure you are familiar with the contents before you need to use it.

To be winter prepared, never put off winter

vehicle maintenance and, if you need help, the MWR Auto Skills Center is available to assist. The center offers basic vehicle care classes that help drivers become more mechanically self-sufficient.

The center employs a professional staff that

can teach such maintenance services as how to change the oil, how to change a flat tire and how to check all fluid levels like brake fluid and antifreeze levels.

For more information, call the Auto Craft Shop nearest your garrison.

USAG Brussels

Auto Craft Shop
Bldg. 1, NSA
DSN: 368-9743
CIV: 02717.97.43

Chievres Garrison

SHAPE Auto Craft Shop
Bldg. 324
DSN: 423-4693
CIV: 06544.46.93

USAG Schinnen

JFC HQ Brunssum
Auto Shop - H402
DSN: 364-3173
CIV: 0455.26.3173



Season opens Nov. 13 for federal benefits program

Benelux Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Open Season for many federal benefits programs began Nov. 13 and runs through Dec. 11. During this time, federal employees can start, stop, or make changes to the following:

- » Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB)
- » Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)
- » Federal Dental Insurance (NEW)
- » Federal Vision Insurance (NEW)

Enrollments or changes are done on-line using three different web sites and having a copy of the most recent leave and earnings statement handy as an information resource for payroll office numbers and other items.

Federal Employees Health Benefits-The Army Benefits Center-Civilian [www.abc.](http://www.abc.army.mil)

[army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil) Select Benefits/EBIS is employee accessible via an AKO user id/password. An ABC-C PIN is also needed. To log on, or to get a new PIN, following the instructions on the web site.

Flexible Spending Accounts- www.fsa.feds.com. Employees can get information about the program as well as enroll on this site. Flexible spending accounts offer employees a way to set aside money from pre-taxed earnings for either health care, dependent care, or both. The FSA web site has a complete list of covered items.

Dental and Vision Insurance- www.benefeds.com. You can get information about the programs as well as enroll on this site.

Spouses get tuition assistance

Overseas Spouse Education Assistance Program - Army - is a need-based education assistance program designed to help Army spouses residing with active duty Soldiers serving in Europe, Korea, Japan and Okinawa with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals. To qualify spouses must physically reside at an overseas residence and be enrolled, accepted, or pending acceptance as a student for the entire term of a post secondary or vocational institution under contract at the education office. Financial assistance is awarded up to half the cost of tuition per term based on financial need with a \$500 maximum per academic term, with a maximum of \$2,500 per academic year. For more information call the Benelux, Brussels or Schinnen education centers or visit www.aerhq.org to apply on-line.

Spouse Tuition Assistance Program - Air Force - Tuition assistance is available for spouses of U.S. Air Force airmen and officers on active duty for the academic year: 2006/2007. The program assists spouses completing a degree or certificate program below the doctorate level with tuition assistance of \$300 or 50 percent of unmet tuition charges per course with a limit of \$1,500 per academic year. STAP is only available at contracted institutions offering on-base programs at overseas locations. Call the Air Force Education Advisor at 065-44-4446, or visit the SHAPE Education Center in Bldg. 212, Rm. 111 for an application or additional information.

Crashed car serves purpose



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

As part of the Trunk-or-Treat event held at USAG Schinnen, the Directorate of Logistics Drivers Testing Station put on a frightening display of what could happen if you drink and drive. The crashed car was a donation from a local junk yard and served two purposes, a pit stop for trick or treaters to fill up their candy bags and an education tool on the dangers of drinking and driving.

Community News

USAG Schinnen

Finding Employment Workshop is held Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - noon at the ACS Resource Center. New **Parent Education and Support Program** offers home visits along with these other parenting classes:

» Play Morning, Thursdays at 9:30-11:30 a.m.

» Childbirth,

» Parenting,

» Breastfeeding and Baby Support.

Call CIV: 046-443 7335 or DSN 360-7335 for specific dates, times and locations.

Other ACS classes include:

» FAP Prevention Education,

» Financial Readiness,

» International Spouses

» Orientation,

» Sponsorship Training,

» Family Readiness Group and

» Deployment Training,

Operation Ready Training is now offered to provide families with resources for upcoming separations.

Community Volunteers are always needed. Call DSN 360-7415 to see how you can help.

MWR Trips & Tours

Cologne, Germany Shopping - Schinnen's MWR is offering a trip to the Cologne Christmas Markets Dec. 9. Cost is \$29. For more information, call DSN 360-7561 or CIV: 046 443-7561.

Trier Christmas Market, Germany - is a SHAPE Trips and Tours favorite seasonal outings as the group heads to Trier to shop at one of Germany's Christmas markets Dec. 2. The market takes place in the medieval Main Market and in front of the imposing backdrop of the Trier Cathedral.

In the 95 festively decorated wooden booths, travelers will find Christmas articles such as Christmas decorations, wooden toys, candles, hand-blown or engraved glassware, gift articles, ceramics and much more. For more information call DSN: 423-3884 or CIV: 065 44 3884.



Morale, Welfare & Recreation...serving the community

Community Events

Arts & Crafts

MWR Ceramic Studio in Brussels - is offering a half price, after school special for students interested in ceramics. This program is offered for school-age students only. For more information, call 027179529.

SHAPE Arts & Crafts Center engraving service - Customers in the Chièvres and SHAPE communities can now take advantage of the engraving services offered at the SHAPE Arts & Crafts Center.

Awards, plaques, and gifts can be personalized with a message befitting the occasion. Clients may choose from different styles and materials. Other items for sale at the center include T-shirts, sweat shirts and polo shirts with the SHAPE logo. For information on other programs offered at the SHAPE Arts & Crafts Center, call DSN 423-5380 or CIV 065-44-5380.

After Hours

3-Star Lounge in Brussels is open to all transmission ID cardholders and accompanied guests 18 years and older on Thursdays from 5-10 p.m., Fridays from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., and open only for scheduled special events on Saturdays. Minors are welcome during most activities when supervised by a parent or adult 18 years or older. For information, call 02 717-9882.

Right Arm Night - The first Friday evening of each month, the 3-Star Lounge hosts Right Arm Night. Call 02 717-9882 for more information.

The Prime Time Bar & Grill, located on Caserne Daumerie is open Mondays-Fridays from 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. for "American-style" breakfast; and lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 361-5540; CIV 068-27-5540.

Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities - Volunteers are needed in Brussels. Call CIV: 02-717-9679 or DSN 368-9679 to find out more. The Consignment Shop needs help with consignments and cashiers. Call 02 717-9724 for details.

Newcomers

Benelux Welcome Center - Attention newcomers, the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Benelux Welcome Center is available to help you with your transition into this community. The center is located in the Hotel Le Maisières and is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. until noon. For more information, please call DSN 423-5324.

Take the Train - Army Community Service

Wishes do come true



PHOTO: Cis Spook

One of the orphans from the 'La Fermette' association is having a private conversation with Santa during the 2005 Christmas orphans party.

The Chièvres Garrison community has been providing support for over 40 years to the Belgian association 'La Fermette'.

This association takes care of two orphanages for children at Arbre and Ostiches, near Ath and also provides assistance and care to needy children in the area.

This year, a total of 57 children aged 2 up to 18 years, have submitted their Christmas wish list. This list gives community members an opportunity to purchase a gift to make a child's Christmas wish come true.

Community members may sign up to make one of the child's wishes come true by contacting the Chièvres Garrison Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694 or 5361-419. Those who wish to purchase a gift should call for a wish list to sign up to insure every child receives at least one gift.

The highlight of the Christmas Orphans Program, sponsored by the Benelux Command Chaplain Office, will be the party scheduled in the afternoon of Dec. 20 at a location yet to be determined.

All the children will be attending the party and impatiently wait until they can unwrap their present. Thanks to your help, Santa will make at least one wish come true for each of these less fortunate children.

is providing a Take the Train trip Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to the Christmas Market in Liège. This is a free event except for the cost of the train ride. The trip provides useful information on traveling and using public transportation here in Belgium. Advance sign up is required and children are welcome. To sign up, call DSN 423-5324 or DSN 423-4332.

Sports & Fitness

Basketball, Cheerleading Registration - Registration for Child and Youth Services' basketball and cheer-leading at Schinnen will be held in Treebeek on Mondays - Fridays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CYS membership is \$18, sports fees are \$46 for basketball and \$36 for cheerleading. The season begins Jan. 13 at AFNORTH International School.

Chièvres Garrison Fitness Center Classes - Free fitness classes are held in the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. For more information or to take an orientation tour of the facility, call 068-275646 or DSN 361-5646. Classes currently offered are:

» Mon and Wed. - Body Blast, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

» Tue. and Thur. - Yoga for Every Body, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

» Tue. and Thur. - Spinning, noon-12:45 p.m.

» Mon., Wed., and Fri. - Yoga for Every Body, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

» Mon and Wed. - Stability Ball, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

» Tues. and Thur. - Pilates, 10-11 a.m.

Those parents with small children are welcome to bring their buggies and take a stroll either on the indoor or outdoor track.

The fitness center orientation offered every fourth Thursday of the month. The tour lasts 45 minutes and familiarizes you with services, programs and equipment available at the facility.

Brussels Sports & Fitness Center offers a skiing fitness program through February to help skiers get ready for the slopes. For an appointment or to pick up a fitness sheet, call CIV: 02-717-9667 or DSN 368-9667

Outdoor Recreation - in Brussels is offering the upcoming trips:

Dec. 2 Charles Dickens Christmas Market

Dec. 9 Aachen/Monchau Christmas Market

Dec. 16 Trip-Cologne Christmas Market

Dec. 23 Canterbury

For more information, call CIV: 02-717-9775 or DSN 368-9775.

Youth Sports - Registration is underway for ballet/flamenco dance classes. Call 364-3595 for full details.

Schinnen Bowling Center - is open Wed.-Sat. from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The center offers Cosmic Bowling every Saturday at 6 p.m. Call CIV: 046-443-7207 or DSN: 360-7207 for more information. Memories Lane Lounge, Pin Point Cafe and Harry's BBQ are co-located at the center.

Honors



Lt. Col. Andamo Ford
Sgt. Jarrell Parkman
Sgt. Christopher Marcinick
Spc. Glen Jones

Meritorious Service Medal	USAG Schinnen
Army Commendation Medal	USAG Benelux
Army Achievement Medal	USAG Brussels
Army Achievement Medal	USAG Schinnen



Frank Bloomer	Achievement Medal for Civil Service	USAG Benelux
Dalal Spaw	Achievement Medal for Civil Service	USAG Benelux
Janice Brissette	Commander's Award for Civil Service	USAG Benelux
Lisa Passalacqua	Commander's Award for Civil Service	USAG Brussels
Stephen Butler	Commander's Award for Public Service	USAG Benelux



Johnny M. Hall	Staff Sergeant	USAG Benelux
James B. Evans	Staff Sergeant	USAG Brussels
Kendall Johnson	Specialist	USAG Schinnen
William Wever	Specialist	USAG Brussels

Special Recognition

Jos Moonen	40-Year	USAG Schinnen
W. Oberdof	25-Year	USAG Schinnen
Piet Penris	25-Year	USAG Schinnen
Stevan Eclavea	15-Year	USAG Schinnen
Laurri Garcia	15-Year	USAG Schinnen
Roger Cleuskens	5-Year	USAG Schinnen



ARMY STRONG.
Specialist Alysha Ford



Spc. Alysha Ford, 21, of Arlington, Texas, is a Blackhawk helicopter crew chief in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan. She was previously assigned to Germany where she had a similar job.

Ford was motivated to join the U.S. Army by her brother and three cousins, who are members of the Texas Army National Guard.

She investigated her enlistment options and obtained a lot of information from the Army's goarmy.com web site before she even talked with a recruiter.

Her proudest moment as a Soldier came in Afghanistan where, as a helicopter crew chief, she was involved in the medical evacuation of a 10-year-old Afghan boy who had been burned in an accident.

According to Ford, "The little boy survived. I love kids. This was a big deal!"

Ford has completed some college course work and plans to eventually earn a degree. When she's not fulfilling her duties as a Soldier, she plays the double bass and paints.

Chapel Services

SHAPE International Chapel

Sunday

9 a.m. Roman Catholic
11:30 a.m. Collective Protestant

Wednesday

12:20 p.m. English Mass (Klar)

Daumerie Chapel

Sunday

10:45 a.m. Collective Protestant

Brussels Chapel

Sunday

10:45 a.m. Collective Protestant
12:30 p.m. Protestant Gospel

JFC International Chapel (Brunssum)

Sunday

10:15 a.m. Collective Protestant
12 p.m. Roman Catholic

Religious Education

SHAPE Chapel

10:30 a.m. Catholic Religious Education
10 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

Daumerie Caserne

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

Brussels Chapel

10 a.m. Catholic Religious Education

JFC International Chapel - Brunssum

9 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Catholic Religious Education

Men of the Chapel

SHAPE Chapel

Tuesday Protestant
6:30 a.m. 423-6020/065446020

Daumerie Caserne

Wednesday Protestant
6:30 p.m. 361-5575/068275575

Brussels Chapel

1st Sat. of the month Protestant
9 p.m. 368-9677

Women of the Chapel

SHAPE Chapel

Thursday Protestant
9:30 a.m. 423-6020/065446020
Catholic

9:30 a.m. **3rd Wed. each month**
6:30 p.m. **1st Wed. each month**
423-6019/065446019

Daumerie Caserne

Wednesday Protestant
6:30 p.m. 361-5575/068275575

Brussels Chapel

Thursday Protestant
8 a.m. 368-9677

JFC International Chapel - Brunssum

Wednesday Protestant
9 a.m. 364-2943

Classified Ads

To place a classified ad:

FREE!!!

Category:

(Please check appropriate box)

- ☐ Autos for Sale
- ☐ Household Goods
- ☐ Volunteers Needed
- ☐ Job Opportunities
- ☐ Miscellaneous
- ☐ Sports Equipment

NAME: _____

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____

SPONSOR'S UNIT: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ITEM(S): _____

SUBMIT VIA FAX TO USAG BENELUX PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DSN: 361-5106 OR CIV: (32) 068-27-5106

Please limit submissions to 5 items.

NOTE: Classified Ads are provided free of charge for everyone across the USAG Benelux community. Those requesting a classified ad be published in the Benelux EDGE agree all items shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.



Hours of Operation

Mon-Fri 0830 - 1630
 Closed for lunch 1300 - 1400
 Sat 1000 - 1230
 Sun 1400 - 1630
 Closed SHAPE holidays



Chièvres Air Base, Belgium

Chièvres Boarding Kennel



We Know Our Business



(068) 27.54.36

Reservations now accepted 60 days in advance.

2007 MWR Calendar

U.S. Holidays ● SHAPE Holidays ●

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2			

